



Data Task Force

December 15, 2025, Meeting minutes
Remote Meeting via Interactive Conference Technology
1151 Punchbowl Street, Conference Rm. 410, Honolulu, HI

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Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams (videoconference interactive conferencing technology).
Physical location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Conference Room 410, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Members Present

Rebecca Cai, Chair, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)
Representative Amy Perruso, State House
Kaimana Walsh, Hawai'i Green Growth
Phan Sirivattha, Department of Human Services
Sandra Furuto, University of Hawai'i
Steve Sakamoto, Department of Health
Dr. Thomas Lee, Hawai'i Data Collective
Yang-Seon Kim, Dept. of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Members Excused

Mai Nguyen Van, Judiciary
Nicholas Todd, Department of Education
Torrie Inouye, Bank of Hawai'i

Other Attendees

Candace Park, Deputy Attorney General
Derek Vale, Department of Health
Chris Jitchaku, University of Hawai'i
ETS: Christine M. Sakuda, Javzandulam Azuma, Joanna Lee, Bradford Baris, Mark Nakama, Jacob Shigeta, Mishkat Rahman, and Lisa Huang.

I. Call to Order; Roll Call

Roll call was taken. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. Introductions to New Members from DOE and DBEDT

Chair Cai welcomed and introduced new member Yang-Seon Kim, Branch Chief of the Statistics and Data Support Branch in the Research Division, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT). Member Kim explained staffing changes in their department and the role that they enjoyed playing in the Data Task Force Committee. Member Kim assured attendees that they would keep track of the Data Task Force's proceedings and implement relevant decisions in their data products. Chair Cai mentioned another new member from the Department of Education, Nicholas Todd, who would introduce himself at the next meeting.

III. Public Testimony

None.

IV. Review and Approve the Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025 and June 30, 2025

During the meeting, said meeting minutes were voted and approved since a quorum was achieved. Member Lee made the first move that was seconded by Member Sakamoto.

V. ACT 154, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, Data Sharing and Governance Working Group Update

Chair Cai presented a PowerPoint regarding this meeting. She stated that for the past months, the Data Task Force team conducted extensive analysis on vendors for data governance, master data management, and a lakehouse of data after receiving the budget approval for fiscal year 2026. She highlighted that the key evaluation criteria included the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning for auto-matching data, transparency in machine learning algorithms, and traceability of the matching criteria.

VI. Data/ AI Tool Selection Update

Chair Cai discussed the selection criteria for master data management tools, highlighting the importance of advanced matching, explainable machine learning, geospatial components, and a scalable hybrid architecture. She emphasized the need for real-time Application Programming Interface (API) connections and the ability to handle a wide range of data records.

Chair Cai emphasized the importance of using advanced technology for master data management, including AI and machine learning. She highlighted the need for security, compliance, and efficient implementation. Chair Cai also stressed the importance of distributed stewardship, where different departments managed their parts of the data while ensuring compliance and secure sharing.

VII. Open Data Analysis

The vendors under consideration for master data management tools include IBM, Tamir, Lake Fusion, and Informatica. Chair Cai pointed out, evaluation criteria focused on feature availability and cost. She emphasized the importance of dynamic data cataloging, AI-driven metadata enrichment, business glossaries, privacy policies, and data masking for effective data governance and quality management.

Chair Cai also emphasized the importance of transparency, regulatory compliance, and federated stewardship in data management. She highlighted the need for hybrid and legacy support, ease of use, broader connectivity, and sensitive data scanning capabilities. Chair Cai mentioned that leading data governance tools include Informatica, Calibra, and IBM, and the importance of a lakehouse as a data sharing platform.

Chair Cai highlighted the need for neutral data formats to avoid vendor lock-in, secure data sharing protocols combined with master data management, and seamless user experience

across various tools. She emphasized the importance of consistent access control and the ability to quickly match and manage citizen records across departments.

Chair Cai emphasized the importance of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and advanced analytics capabilities in the data lakehouse. She highlighted the need for hybrid multi-cloud deployment, serverless compute options, and AI-driven functionalities to support policy and business decision-making. Chair Cai also mentioned that utilizing AI and machine learning could significantly reduce costs and improve efficiency for vendors and shared data platforms.

Chair Cai discussed the State's efforts to procure data governance and master data management tools that were affordable and scalable for all departments. She emphasized avoiding vendor lock-in, ensuring secure data sharing protocols, and using AI-driven tools to enhance data management. Chair Cai also highlighted the importance of transparency, dynamic cataloging, and collaboration among departments to utilize shared tools effectively.

VIII. Data/ AI Governance Group Update

Chair Cai mentioned the importance of improving data transparency through the use of chatbots and automated updates for open data websites. She discussed the establishment of a Data AI Governance Committee, the roles of departmental data and AI leads, and the benefits of shared data governance tools to enhance efficiency and reduce costs.

Chair Cai also stressed the importance of departments developing their own data and AI roadmaps to support business use cases and data readiness. She highlighted the need for ongoing data quality management and governance. She also mentioned that many states mandated the sharing of AI use cases and vendors by law to enhance transparency and efficiency. Chair Cai also emphasized the importance of creating use case roadmaps for data and AI initiatives, emphasizing the need for department-specific plans and statewide support.

IX. Business Use Cases Update on Those We Have Been Working on Lately

Chair Cai discussed the high-level architecture for data sharing, emphasizing departmental autonomy while ensuring support for interdepartmental data needs. She highlighted the procurement of master data management, data governance, and decision management platforms. Chair Cai also mentioned the rapid advancements in AI tools and the importance of selecting solutions that facilitate easy adoption and scalability. The focus was on shared data use cases that had a significant impact and cost-effectiveness. She also announced the establishment of a data and AI office within ETS to support these initiatives.

Chair Cai discussed the need for consistent AI governance tools across the State to ensure data security and accuracy. She emphasized collaboration between departments for selecting and implementing AI tools, maintaining an AI use case and tools inventory, and promoting transparency. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of legislating AI use case sharing to improve efficiency and reduce duplication.

Member Kim expressed interest in creating a chatbot for their division's website due to issues with the current search feature. They discussed the potential costs and risks, noting

the fast-paced advancements in AI technology. Chair Cai suggested having a detailed meeting to discuss this further.

Chair Cai and Member Kim discussed creating a chatbot for the division's website due to limitations of the existing search feature on the DBEDT website. They evaluated vendors and discussed varying costs and functionalities. They emphasized the importance of a unified chatbot system across different departments to ensure consistent data and reduce costs. Chair Cai suggested piloting and testing different scenarios and collaborating statewide for better pricing and support. They acknowledged potential cost, maintenance, and data inconsistencies if each department created its own chatbot.

Chair Cai and Member Kim further discussed the implementation of a chatbot for the division's website. They expressed concerns about maintaining consistent data and the potential costs. Member Kim emphasized restricting data sources to ensure specific responses from the website. And Chair Cai highlighted the need for open data and personalized services. They planned to continue testing use cases and aim to select an AI tool by the next meeting.

X. Good of the Order

a. Announcements

b. Next Meeting: March 16, 2026

The next meeting was scheduled for March 16th, with agenda items including updating ACT 150 and selecting a tool for AI. Chair Cai emphasized sharing the AI approach with departments to get feedback before the next Data Task Force meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Cai concluded the meeting with holiday greetings. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.